FOX NEWS - 2007 STATE OF THE UNION (1-23-2007)

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From Tuesday, January 23rd, 2007 FOX NEWS live coverage of President George W. Bush's annual State of the Union Address inside the United States Capital Building in Washington D.C.

Also in this video is the Democratic response by Senator Jim Webb

- Coverage runs from 9:00 P.M E.T - 10:59 P.M E.T

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[Music] [Applause] good evening on your screen here in a moment at least you'll be looking at the house chamber on capitol hill where in just a few minutes president bush will deliver his annual state of the union address i'm britt hewn there's the house floor this speech will be somewhat different for the president at least in terms of the atmosphere with the house speaker nancy pelosi a democrat and of course a woman behind him the congress of course is in control of the democrats something the president has never faced before and many in both parties of course tonight preoccupied with the war on iraq an issue that seems to overshadow nearly everything however the president is not expected to start on the secretary of iraq although he'll have a lot to say about it before all is said and done and for a sense of how he will start let's turn to our senior white house correspondent brett bear who's down at the white house brett what can you tell us brett senior aides say president bush will try to reach common ground on a wide-ranging international and domestic agenda topping the domestic proposals the president will call for a plan to slash gasoline consumption by 20 percent in 10 years in an effort to expand health coverage on a health insurance coverage on iraq senior aide say the president knows that the country has war fatigue so he'll drive home the consequences of failure in iraq something the president calls a nightmare scenario for the u.s now officials here say president bush has no illusions that he'll manage to sway many of the lawmakers democrats and republicans who now oppose his new plan to add more troops to iraq but aides say he will ask for one thing and that is time to give his new plan a chance to work brit brett thank you we see laura bush has joined lynn cheney now in the in the gallery above the chamber and nancy pelosi has a group of people in her box above the chamber as well tonight a long list of people she's invited we may see some of them before the evening is out in the meantime i'm joined here in the studio by fred barnes

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joined here in the studio by fred barnes executive editor of the weekly standard uh you can't see him but you will see him later and you will also see mort kondraki the executive editor of roll call nina easton the washington bureau chief of fortune magazine and fred's colleague bill crystal editor of the weekly standard all are fox news contributors and we're beginning to get now the introductions of the people who will be coming down the aisle ahead of the president of the united states let's listen to a little of this it's uh it's all ceremonial but it's kind of fun to watch remember the supreme court you see coming in now that's the chief justice of course john roberts they always wear their uh robes uh they're not gonna they're not gonna decide any cases tonight or even hear any arguments at least no legal arguments but they wear them anyway i think it probably helps them to get a better seat madam speaker the president's cabinet this is the president's cabinet minus one uh which is customary for security reasons they have one member absent in case that

something horrible happens that that missing member tonight will be the attorney general alberto gonzalez so you see um secretary of state rice followed by the treasury secretary paulson coming down the aisle now you can see uh dennis kucinich someone who agrees with these people on almost nothing he's making sure he got his spot on the aisle that brian wilson was talking about earlier that some of these members just do that customarily they like to get on the center aisle they get on television that way and get a little bit of visibility visibility is sometimes a hard thing to come by there you see bob gates the defense secretary the for a house member in particular it's not so bad for a senator to try to get seen nationally but this is one opportunity to do it so some of the people go about doing it this way

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this will take a little while as brian wilson was noting earlier it's kind of a social occasion i wonder if brian can still talk to me yes i can still hear you bro yeah you see all this now maybe you can describe it better than i can yeah there's a there's a lot of kibbutzing going on along the center aisle as members of the president's cabinet come through i see uh sanchez he's having a moment with some members as they come through uh i've noticed that uh there's an interesting thing going on here about four or five rows behind the first lady is the noted actor michael j fox who's become quite an advocate for stem cell research he appears to be if not in the president's box with the first lady's box at least very close and he was very courteous of course when the first lady came in everybody stood and applauded and he did as well but he is here in attendance tonight as well with many other luminaries scattered throughout the chamber all right fred barnes some thoughts now about what the president can possibly accomplish in a speech like this the state of the union addresses as we know have had a few famous moments but surprisingly few over the years gerald ford had one when he talked about the state of the union not being good after watergate bill clinton had one when he said to hear a big government was over to wild republican cheers uh hopes of that being true i guess we're later dashed but go ahead well the president has i think lowered the anticipation of this speech because he gave an important one earlier in january about iraq iraq is the biggest issue facing the country right now and he proposed a to send more troops and and have a counter insurgency program in in baghdad in hopes of winning the war that sort of overshadowed this so there's less anticipation i think what we're looking for here is is one since the president is staff has described this speech as non-confrontational and he wants to propose some things that democrats may go along with and there are a few energy education i don't think

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are a few energy education i don't think health care but and so i think what we're looking for is to see how democrats react mort conrad um well there there's a uh a line in the in the advanced text about how it's up to the iraqis to save themselves and i i predict that that will be the uh the high point of the speech i expect unanimous applause for that than anything else and when he appeals for patience uh to to uh follow through on his new strategy in iraq um i would guess that there will be the the applause will be more muted nina what are your and of course um iraq is the second half of the speech i thought it was almost symbolic that uh he's trying to get the attention of the public at a time when it's almost like a man underwater shouting for attention on domestic policy when you've got um when you've got iraq consuming the attention of of the public and consuming the battles up on the hill uh but he did in in the domestic policy side he's latched on to concerns of of real concern to the american public um energy uh alternative energy uh the environment and health care costs these are things that resonate with the public and he's hoping to build support out of this bill crystal your thoughts i'm afraid this is the first time in six years that we won't have denny hester and dick cheney looming over president bush's shoulder we'll have nancy pelosi dick shady and that's that's an upgrade in my in my opinion if i can if i'm allowed to make that kind of comment here he's certainly allowed to make that kind of comment worth noting perhaps that dennis hastert today signed on to the the campaign of massachusetts former massachusetts governor mitt romney i didn't expect that to happen an interesting development it is romney actually has a fair amount of support among house members i think beneath the radar screen he's been doing some cultivating of them anyway yes danny hester will be there he's still a

member of the house and a fine person i wasn't imputing his character or even his leadership but nancy pelosi the first female speaker it will be nice to see her there behind the president be assured folks that the president has been up on the hill for a while now in fact [Music]

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[Music] one of some of our colleagues were watching the motorcades roll up you've got a lot of them tonight you get all the cabinet secretaries they have a certain amount of security and motorcades of some size and you have a larger one for the vice president and the big enchilada of motorcades of all that one bringing the president up when in a moment here we're going to hear as as we'll hear from barry sullivan who is whose title is house democratic floor manager that's not a legislative job that's a that's a staff job and he will say madam speaker and then the sergeant of arms will will announce the president of the united states we haven't usually heard the two voices before the president so this marks a difference as if assuming anybody cares and then the president will come in and there'll be a lot of applause and handshaking and then we'll watch him make his way to the electorate and it should be about to happen now madam speaker the president of the united states [Applause] dennis kucinich democrat of ohio about as liberal as they come um making sure he's on the aisle to get his moment with the president he's running for president dennis kucinich is that may have been more more people with more eyes on him at that moment than any time in his political life [Applause] ryan you want to describe what you're able to see from your angle brian wilson i've got my binoculars trained right on the president he's making small talk with members as he comes through

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with members as he comes through this is a slow walk nobody expects this to happen very quickly it's uh it's an area speaking they're shaking hands with elliott ingle the man who's been perks in that position for the better part of an hour to have his moment with the president i've also been it's so interesting to watch the interaction of people who might not normally come together inside this chamber and while the president's coming in a moment ago i happen to see peter pace the chairman of the joint chiefs speaking to the chief justice of the united states you can't imagine how that might happen in any other setting than this one [Applause] all right okay we've been calculating here now one of the things to watch for tonight and listen for ladies and gentlemen is how he recognizes and in what way he recognizes the new speaker it should be one of the first things he says [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause]

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how you doing thank you [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause] she will recognize him first of course and announce him and then presumably that will be his moment to salute her members of congress i have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the president of the united states now it starts up as it always does all over again so he gets a burst when he comes in and comes down the aisle and gets up on the lectern and then sometimes it freshens a bit once he first gets up there and then uh things settle down the speaker announces him and then it starts all over again so we'll see how long this lasts [Applause] thank you very much and tonight i have the high privilege and distinct honor of my own as the first president to begin the state of the union message with these words madam speaker [Applause] in his day the late congressman thomas d'alessandro jr from baltimore maryland saw presidents roosevelt and truman at this roster

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this roster but nothing could compare with the sight of his only daughter nancy presiding tonight as speaker of the house of representatives congratulations madam speaker [Music] two members of the house and senate are now with us tonight and we pray for the recovery and speedy return of senator tim johnson and congressman charlie norwood [Music] madam speaker vice president cheney members of congress distinguished guests and fellow citizens the right of custom brings us together at a defining hour when decisions are hard and courage is needed we enter the year 2007 with large endeavors underway and

others that are ours to begin and all of this much is asked of us we must have the will to face difficult challenges and determined enemies and the wisdom to face them together some in this chamber are new to the house in the senate and i congratulate the democrat majority [Applause] congress has changed but not our responsibilities each of us is guided by our own convictions and to these we must stay faithful yet we're all held to the same standards

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yet we're all held to the same standards and called to serve the same good purposes to extend this nation's prosperity to spend the people's money wisely to solve problems not leave them to future generations to guard america against all evil and to keep faith with those we have sent forth to defend us [Applause] [Music] we're not the first to come here with a government divided and uncertain in the air like many before us we can work through our differences and we can achieve big things for the american people our citizens don't much care which side of the aisle we sit on [Music] as long as we're willing to cross that aisle when there's work to be done [Applause] [Music] our job is to make life better for our fellow americans and to help them build a future of hope and opportunity and this is the business before us tonight a future of hope and opportunity begins with a growing economy and that is what we have we're now in the 41st month of uninterrupted job growth a recovery that has created 7.2 million new jobs so far unemployment is low inflation is low wages are rising this economy is on the move and our job is to keep it that way not with more government but with more enterprise [Music] next week i'll deliver a full report on the state of our economy tonight i want to discuss three economic reforms that deserve to be priorities for this congress

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for this congress first we must balance the federal budget [Music] we can do so without raising taxes [Applause] but we need a spending discipline in washington d.c we set a goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009 and met that goal three years ahead of schedule [Applause] [Music] now let us take the next step in the coming weeks i will submit a budget that eliminates the federal deficit within the next five years [Applause] [Music] i ask you to make the same commitment together we can restrain the spending appetite of the federal government and we can balance the federal budget [Applause] [Music] next there's the matter of earmarks these special interest items are often slipped into bills at the last hour when not even c-span is watching 2005 alone the number of earmarks screwed over 13 000 and totaled nearly 18 billion dollars even worse over ninety percent of the earmarks never make it to the floor of the house in the senate they're dropped into committee reports that are not even part of the bill that arrives on my desk you didn't vote him into law i didn't sign them into law yet they are treated as if they have the force of law the time has come to end this practice so let us work together to reform the

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so let us work together to reform the budget process expose every year marked the lie today and to a vote in congress and cut the number and cost of earmarks at least in half by the end of this session [Music] and finally to keep this economy strong we must take on the challenge of entitlements social security and medicare and medicaid are commitments of conscience and so it is our duty to keep them permanently sound yet we're failing in that duty and this failure will one day leave our children with three bad options huge tax increases huge deficits are huge and immediate cuts and benefits everyone in this chambers knows this to be true yet somehow we have not found it in ourselves to act so let us work together and do it now with enough good sense and good will you and i can fix medicare and medicare medicaid and save social security [Music] spreading opportunity and hope in america also requires public schools that give children the knowledge and character they need in life five years ago we rose above partisan differences to pass the no child left behind act preserving local control raising standards and holding schools accountable for results and because we active students are performing better in reading and math minority students are closing the achievement gap now the task is to build on the success without watering down standards without taking control from local communities and without backsliding

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and without backsliding and calling it reform we can lift student achievement even higher by giving local leaders flexibility to turn around failing schools and by giving families with children stuck in failing schools the right to choose someplace better [Music] we must increase funds for students who struggle and make sure these children get the special help they need [Applause] [Music] and we can make sure our children are prepared for the jobs of the future and our country is more competitive by strengthening math and science skills the no child left behind act has worked for america's children and i ask congress to reauthorize this good law [Applause] [Music] a future of hope and opportunity requires that all our citizens have affordable and available health care [Music] when it comes to health care government has an obligation to care for the elderly the disabled and poor children and we will meet those responsibilities for all other americans private health insurance is the best way to meet their needs [Applause] but many americans cannot afford a health insurance policy and so tonight i propose two new initiatives to help more americans afford their own insurance first i propose a standard tax deduction for health insurance that will be like

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for health insurance that will be like the standard tax deduction for dependents families with health insurance will pay no income on payroll tax or payroll taxes on fifteen thousand dollars of their income single americans with health insurance will pay no income or payroll taxes on seven thousand five hundred dollars of their income with this reform more than a hundred million men women and children who are now covered by employer-provided insurance will benefit from lower tax bills at the same time this reform will level the playing field for those who do not get health insurance to their job for americans who now purchase health insurance on their own this proposal would mean a substantial tax savings four thousand five hundred dollars for a family of four making sixty thousand dollars a year and for the millions of other americans who have no health insurance at all this deduction would help put a basic private health insurance plan within their reach changing the tax code is a vital and necessary step to making health care affordable for more americans [Applause] [Music] my second proposal is to help the states that are coming up with innovative ways to cover the uninsured states that make basic private health insurance available to all their citizens should receive federal funds to help them provide this coverage to the poor and the sick i've asked the secretary of health and human services to work with congress to take existing federal funds and use them to create affordable choices grants these grants would give our nation's governors more money and more flexibility to get private health insurance to those most in there are many other ways that congress can help we need to expand health savings

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we need to expand health savings accounts [Music] we need to help small businesses through association health plans [Music] we need to reduce costs in medical errors with better information technology [Applause] [Music] we will encourage price transparency and to protect protect good doctors from junk lawsuits we need to pass medical liability reform [Applause] in all we do we must remember that the best health care decisions are not made by government and insurance companies but by patients and their doctors [Music] [Applause] extending hope and opportunity in our country requires an immigration system worthy of america with laws that are fair and borders that are secure when laws and borders are routinely violated this harms the interests of our country to secure our border we're doubling the size of the border patrol and funding new infrastructure and technology yet even with all these steps we cannot fully secure the border unless we take pressure off the border and that requires a temporary worker program we should establish a legal and orderly path for foreign workers to enter our country to work on a temporary basis

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on a temporary basis as a result they won't have to try to sneak in and that will leave border agents free to chase down drug smugglers and criminals and terrorists [Applause] [Music] we'll enforce our immigration laws at the work site and give employers the tools to verify the legal status of their workers so there's no

excuse left for violating the law [Music] we need to uphold the great tradition of the melting pot that welcomes and assimilates new arrivals [Applause] [Music] we need to resolve the status of the illegal immigrants who are already in our country without animosity and without amnesty [Applause] [Music] convictions run deep in this capital when it comes to immigration let us have a serious civil and conclusive debate so that you can pass and i can sign comprehensive immigration reform into law [Music] extending hope and opportunity depends on a stable supply of energy that keeps america's economy running and america's environment clean for too long our nation has been dependent on foreign oil this dependence leaves us more vulnerable to hostile regimes and to terrorists who could cause huge disruptions of oil shipments and raise the price of oil and do great harm to our economy

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and do great harm to our economy it's in our vital interest to diversify america's energy supply the way forward is through technology we must continue changing the way america generates electric power by even greater use of clean coal technology solar and wind energy and clean safe nuclear power [Music] we need to press on with battery research for plug-in and hybrid vehicles and expand the use of clean diesel vehicles in biodiesel fuel we must [Applause] [Music] we must continue investing in new methods of producing ethanol [Applause] [Music] using everything from wood chips to grasses to agricultural wastes we made a lot of progress thanks to good policies here in washington and the strong response of the market and now even more dramatic advances are within reach tonight i ask congress to join me in pursuing a great goal let us build on the work we've done and reduce gasoline usage in the united states by twenty percent in the next ten years [Music] when we do that we will have cut our total imports by the equivalent of three quarters of all the oil we now import from the middle east this goal we must increase the supply of alternative fuels by setting a mandatory fuel standard to require 35 billion gallons of renewable and alternative fuels in 2017 and that is nearly five times the current target [Applause]

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[Applause] [Music] at the same time we need to reform and modernize fuel economy standards for cars the way we did for light trucks and conserve up to eight and a half billion more gallons of gasoline by 2017. achieving these ambitious goals will dramatically reduce our dependence on foreign oil but it's not going to eliminate it and so as we continue to diversify our fuel supply we must step up domestic oil production in environmentally sensitive ways and to further protect america against severe disruptions to our oil supply i ask congress to double the current capacity of the strategic petroleum reserve [Applause] [Music] america's on the verge of technological breakthroughs that will enable us to live our lives less dependent on oil and these technologies will help us be better stewards of the environment and they will help us to confront the serious challenge of global climate change [Music] the future of hope and opportunity requires a fair and partial system of justice the lives of our citizens across our nation are affected by the outcome of cases pending in our federal courts we have a shared obligation to ensure that the federal courts have enough judges to hear those cases and deliver timely rulings the president i have a duty to nominate qualified men and women to vacancies on

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qualified men and women to vacancies on the federal bench and the united states senate has a duty as well to give those nominees a fair hearing and a prompt up or down vote on the senate floor [Music] [Applause] for all of us in this room there's no higher responsibility than to protect the people of this country from danger five years have come and gone since we saw the scenes and felt the sorrow that the terrorists can cause we've had time to take stock of our situation we've added many critical protections to guard the homeland we know a certainty that the horrors of that september morning were just a glimpse of what the terrorists intend for us unless we stop them with the distance of time we find ourselves debating the causes of conflict and the course we have followed such debates are essential when a great democracy faces great questions and one question has surely been settled that to win the war on terror we must take the fight to the enemy

[Applause] [Music] from the start american our allies have protected our people by staying on the offense the enemy knows that the days of comfortable sanctuary easy movement steady financing and free-flowing communications are long over for the terrorist license 911 has never been the same our success in this war is often measured by the things that did not happen

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happen we cannot know the full extent of the attacks that we and our allies have prevented but here's some of what we do know we stopped an al-qaeda plot to fly a hijacked airplane into the tallest building on the west coast we broke up a southeast asian terror cell grooming operatives for attacks inside the united states we uncovered an al-qaeda cell developing anthrax to be used in attacks against america just last august british authorities uncovered a plot to blow up passenger paint planes bound for america over the atlantic ocean for each life saved we owe a debt of gratitude to the brave public servants who devote their lives to finding the terrorists and stopping them [Music] [Applause] every success against the terrorists is a reminder of the shoreless ambitions of this enemy the evil that inspired and rejoice in 9 11 is still at work in the world and so long as that's the case america is still a nation at war in the mind of the terrorists this war began well before september the 11th and will not end until their radical vision is fulfilled and these past five years have given us a much clearer view of the nature of this enemy al qaeda and as follows are sunni extremists possessed by hatred and commanded by a harsh and narrow ideology take almost any principle of civilization and their goal is the opposite they preach with threats

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they preach with threats construct with bullets and bombs and promised paradise for the murder of the innocent our enemies are quite explicit about their intentions they want to overthrow moderate governments and establish safe havens from which to plan and carry out new attacks on our country by killing and terrorizing americans they want to force our country to retreat from the world and abandon the cause of liberty they would then be free to impose their will and spread their totalitarian ideology listen to this warning from the late terrorist zarkawi we will sacrifice our blood and bodies to put an end to your dreams and what is coming is even worse osama bin laden declared death is better than living on this earth with the unbelievers among us these men are not given idle words and they are just one camp in the islamist radical movement in recent times it has also become clear that we face an escalating danger from shia extremists who are just as hostile to america and are also determined to dominate the middle east many are known to take direction from the regime in iran which is funding an army terrorist like hezbollah a group second only to al-qaeda in the american lives it has taken the shia and sunni extremists are different faces of the same totalitarian threat whatever slogans they chant when they slaughter the innocent they have the same wicked purposes they want to kill americans kill democracy in the middle east and gain the weapons to kill on an even more horrific scale in the six years since our nation was attacked i wish i could report to you that the dangers have ended they have not and so it remains the policy of this government to use every lawful and proper tool of intelligence diplomacy law enforcement and military action to do our duty to

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and military action to do our duty to find these enemies and to protect the american people [Music] this war is more than a clash of arms it is a decisive ideological struggle and the security of our nation is in the balance to prevail we must remove the conditions that inspire blind hatred and drove 19 men to get onto airplanes and to come and kill us whatever terrorist fears most is human freedom societies where men and women make their own choices answer to their own conscience and live by their hopes instead of their resentments free people are not drawn to violent and malignant ideologies and most will choose a better way when they're given a chance so we advance our own security interests by helping moderates and reformers and brave voices for democracy the great question of our day is whether america will help men and women in the middle east to build free societies and share in the rights of all humanity and i say for the sake of our own

security we must [Music] in the last two years we've seen the desire for liberty in the broader middle east and we have been sobered by the enemy's fierce reaction 2005 the world watch as the citizens of lebanon raised the banner of the cedar

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lebanon raised the banner of the cedar revolution they drove out the syrian occupiers and chose new leaders in free elections in 2005 the people of afghanistan defied the terrorists and elected a democratic legislature and in 2005 the iraqi people held three national elections choosing a transitional government adopting the most progressive democratic constitution in the arab world and then electing a government under that constitution despite endless threats from the killers in their midst nearly 12 million iraqi citizens came out to vote in a show of hope and solidarity that we should never forget a thinking enemy a thinking enemy watched all these scenes adjusted their tactics and in 2006 they struck back in lebanon assassins took the life of pierre jamael a prominent participant in the cedar revolution hezbollah terrorists with support from syria and iran sowed conflict in the region and are seeking to undermine lebanon's legitimately elected government in afghanistan taliban and al-qaeda fighters tried to regain power by regrouping and engaging afghan and nato forces in iraq al qaeda and other sunni extremists blew up one of the most sacred places in shia islam the golden mosque of samara this atrocity directed at a muslim house of prayer was designed to provoke retaliation from iraqi shia and it succeeded radical elements some of whom received support from iran formed death squads the result was a tragic escalation of sectarian rage and reprisal that continues to this day this is not the fight we entered in iraq

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this is not the fight we entered in iraq but it is the fight we are in every one of us wishes this war were over and won yet it would not be like us to leave our promises unkept our friends abandoned and our own security at risk [Applause] [Music] ladies and gentlemen on this day at this hour it is still within our power to shape the outcome of this battle let us find our resolve and turn events toward victory [Music] we're carrying out a new strategy in iraq a plan that demands more from iraq's elected government and gives our forces in iraq the reinforcements they need to complete their mission our goal is a democratic iraq that oppose the rule of law respects the rights of its people provides them security and as an ally in the war on terror in order to make progress toward this goal the iraqi government must stop the sectarian violence in its capital but the iraqis are not yet ready to do this on their own so we're deploying reinforcements of more than 20 000 additional soldiers and marines to iraq the vast majority will go to baghdad where they will help iraqi forces to clear and secure neighborhoods and serve as advisors embedded in iraqi army units with iraqis in the lead our forces will help secure the city by chasing down the terrorists insurgents and the roaming death squads in an ambar province where al-qaeda terrorists have gathered and local forces have begun showing a willingness

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forces have begun showing a willingness to fight them we're sending an additional four thousand united states marines with orders to find the terrorists and clear them out [Music] we didn't drive al qaeda out of their safe haven in afghanistan only to let them set up a new safe safe haven in a free iraq people of iraq want to live in peace and now it's time for their government to act iraq's leaders know that our commitment is not open-ended they have promised to deploy more of their own troops to secure baghdad and they must do so they pledge that they will confront violent radicals of any faction or political party and they need to follow through and lift needless restrictions on iraqi and coalition forces so these troops can achieve their mission of bringing security to all of the people of baghdad iraq's leaders have committed themselves to a series of benchmarks to achieve reconciliation to share oil revenues among all iraq citizens to put the wealth of iraq into the rebuilding of iraq to allow more iraqis to re-enter their nation's civic life to hold local elections and to take responsibility for security in every iraqi province but for all this to happen baghdad must be secure and our plan will help the iraqi government take back its capital and make good on its commitments my fellow

citizens our military commanders and i have carefully weighed the options discussed every possible approach in the end i chose this course of action because it provides the best chance for success many in this chamber understand that

00:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=2880s)

many in this chamber understand that america must not fail in iraq because you understand that the consequences of failure would be grievous and far-reaching if american forces step back before baghdad is secured the iraqi government would be overrun by extremists on all sides we can expect an epic battle between shia extremists backed by iran and sunni extremists aided by al qaeda and supporters of the old regime a contagion of violence could spill out across the country and in time the entire region could be drawn into the conflict for america this is a nightmare scenario for the enemy this is the objective chaos is the greatest ally their greatest ally in this struggle and out of chaos in iraq would emerge and embolden enemy with new safe havens new recruits new resources and an even greater determination to harm america to allow this to happen would be to ignore the lessons of september the 11th and invite tragedy ladies and gentlemen nothing is more important at this moment in our history than for america to succeed in the middle east to succeed in iraq and to spare the american people from this danger [Music] [Applause] this is where matters stand tonight in the here and now i've spoken with many of you in person i respect you in the arguments you've made we went into this largely united in our assumptions and in our convictions [Music]

00:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3000s)

[Music] and whatever you voted for you did not vote for failure our country is pursuing a new strategy in iraq and i ask you to give it a chance to work and i ask you to support our troops in the field and those on their way [Applause] [Music] the war on terror we fight today is a generational struggle that will continue long after you and i have turned our duties over to others and that's why it's important to work together so our nation can see this great effort through both parties in both branches should work in close consultation so i have proposed to establish a special advisory council on the war on terror made up of leaders in congress from both political parties we will share ideas for how to position america to meet every challenge that confronts us we'll show our enemies abroad that were united in the goal of victory and one of the first steps we can take together is to add to the ranks of our military so that the american armed forces are ready for all the challenges ahead tonight tonight i asked the congress to authorize an increase in the size of our active army marine corps by 92 000 in the next five years [Music] second task we can take on together is to design and establish a volunteer

00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3120s)

to design and establish a volunteer civilian reserve corps such a corps would function much like our military reserve but ease the burden on the armed forces by allowing us to hire civilians with critical skills to serve on missions abroad when america needs them we give people across america who do not wear the uniform a chance to serve in the defining struggle of our time americans can have confidence in the outcome of this struggle because we're not in this struggle alone we have a diplomatic strategy that is rallying the world to join in the fight against extremism in iraq multinational forces are operating under a mandate from the united nations we're working with jordan in saudi arabia and egypt and the gulf states to increase support for iraq's government the united nations has imposed sanctions on iran and made it clear that the world will not allow the regime and tehran to acquire nuclear weapons [Music] other members of the quartet the u.n the eu and russia were pursuing diplomacy to help bring peace to the holy land and pursuing the establishment of a democratic palestinian state living side by side with israel in peace and security [Applause] [Music] in afghanistan nato has taken the lead in turning back the taliban and al qaeda offensive the first time the alliance has deployed forces outside the north atlantic area together with our partners in china and japan russia and south korea were pursuing intensive diplomacy to achieve a korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons [Applause] [Music]

00:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3240s)

we will continue to speak out for the cause of freedom in places like cuba belarus and burma and continue to awaken the conscience of the world to save the people of darfur [Music] american foreign policy is more than a matter of war and diplomacy our work in the world is also based on a timeless truth to whom much given much is required we hear the call to take on the challenges of hunger and poverty and disease and that is precisely what america is doing we must continue to fight hiv aids especially on the continent of africa [Music] because you funded the emergency plan for aids relief the number of people receiving life-saving drugs has grown from 50 000 to more than eight hundred thousand in three short years i ask you to continue funding our efforts to fight hiv aids and i ask you to provide 1.2 billion dollars over five years so we can combat malaria in 15 african countries [Music] i ask that you fund the millennium challenge account so that american aid reaches the people who need it and nations where democracy is on the rise and corruption is in retreat and let us continue to

00:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3361s)

and let us continue to support the expanded trade and debt relief that are the best hope for lifting lives and eliminating poverty [Applause] when america serves others in this way we show the strength and generosity of our country these deeds reflect the character of our people the greatest strength we have is the heroic kindness and courage and self-sacrifice of the american people you see this spirit often if you know where to look and tonight we need only look above to the gallery dikembe mutombo grew up in africa amid great poverty and disease he came to georgetown university on a scholarship to study medicine coach john thompson took a look at the chem bay and had a different idea kimbe became a star in the nba and a citizen of the united states but he never forgot the land of his birth or the duty to share his blessings with others he built a brand new hospital in his old hometown a friend has said of this good-hearted man matumbo believes that god has given him this opportunity to do great things and we're proud to call this son of the congo a citizen of the united states of america [Music] after her daughter was born julie

00:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3481s)

after her daughter was born julie eigener clark searched for ways to share her love of music and art with her child so she borrowed some equipment and began filming children's videos in her basement the baby einstein company was born and in just five years her business grew to more than 20 million dollars in sales november 2001 julie sold baby einstein to walt disney company and with her help baby einstein has grown into a 200 million dollar business julie represents a great enterprising spirit of america and she's using her success to help others producing child safety videos with john walsh of the national center for missing and exploited children julie says of her new project i believe it is the most important thing i have ever done i believe that children have the right to live in a world that is safe and so tonight we are pleased to welcome this talented business entrepreneur and generous social entrepreneur julie ignore clark [Music] three weeks ago wesley autry was waiting at a harlem subway station with his two little girls when he saw a man fall into the path of a train with second stack wesley jumped onto the tracks pulled the man into the space between the rails and held him as a train passed right above their heads he insists he's not a hero he says we got guys and girls overseas dying for us to have our freedoms we have got to show each other brave and humble man like wesley autry

01:00:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3603s)

[Applause] [Music] [Applause] [Music] tommy riemann was a teenager pumping gas in independence kentucky when he enlisted in the united states army in december 2003 he was on a reconnaissance mission in iraq when his team came under heavy enemy fire from a zombie sergeant riemann returned fire he used his body as a shield to protect his gunner he was shot in the chest and arm and received shrapnel wounds to his legs yet he refused medical attention and stayed in the fight he helped to repel a second attack firing grenades at the enemy's position for his exceptional courage sergeant riemann was awarded the silver star and like so many other americans who have volunteered to defend us he has earned the respect and the gratitude of our entire country [Applause] [Music]

01:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3721s)

in such courage and compassion ladies and gentlemen we see the spirit and character of america and these qualities are not in short supply this is a decent and honorable country and resilient too we've been through a lot together we've met challenges and faced dangers and we know that more lie ahead yet we can go forward with confidence because the state of our union is strong our cause in the world is right and tonight that cause goes on god bless [Applause] and so the president in an address that lasted just about 50 minutes that's about average for this president his longest was 60 minutes in 2003 his shortest was uh 48 in uh he was he got about 60 uh breaks of applause there uh that's about what he got last year and uh and that doesn't compare with some of the earlier speeches 76 separate interruptions for applause and 02 77 and 03 and so on this is by no means the longest uh anywhere near the longest not even his it is not even his longest but it does it is dwarfed by president clinton's year 2000 state of the union address which went on for an hour and a half and a lot of it was widely panned by a lot of commentators afterwards but the speech seemed to be a terrific hit with the public so one never knows president of course going through the chamber taking his hands there with senator leahy the judiciary chairman on the on the senate side now someone who can be counted upon to resist with all his might the president's conservative judicial nominees roy blunt

01:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3840s)

members of the court there with the president john boehner who is back to us there republican floor leader in the house of course the minority leader members of his cabinet he's speaking to him the speech was if it struck you listening to this speech as particularly in the early stages when he was going through the programs that it was the laundry list rather than a soaring and thematic address it certainly was and this is the custom with state of the union addresses these are typically not particularly thematic although the white house had told some people today that it would be in fact thematic it is the way of state of the union address is there a lot of political bases to touch a lot of issues to just to discuss a lot of ideas to put forth and members of any administration want their particular cause their particular legislative issue placed in the state of the union address it gives a little bit of more visibility and priority which is always a welcome thing when you're trying to work a program through congress and uh i would say that the response to this speech was polite it was certainly not overwhelming there was more applause for a couple of the guests in the gallery and for his uh salute to speaker pelosi at the beginning than there was for any of the moments during the speech but it was certainly politely received the two main initiatives that have been the focus of the advanced discussion there is the president with sheila jackson lee who seems never to get enough of him although she really rarely agrees with him and with jesse jackson jr look like his father i guess uh jackson could have said the same to him if he'd chosen to apparently he didn't eliot engel who never seems to be able to get enough of the president on these nights although he resists the president on most initiatives he likes to get on the aisle as brian wilson pointed out

01:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=3960s)

aisle as brian wilson pointed out earlier and he likes to shake the president's hand coming in and he doesn't mind catching him on the way out either now somebody in these instances you should know that some of these legislators are trying to get the president to do something you know we can't really hear well enough to know but uh let's listen for a little bit sooner yes sir i want to thank you for your comments on god for yeah [Music] uh kirby and i were talking about you he said how's green been i said green is a dignified distinguished man i appreciate you guys and thank you president kind for important soldiers thanks for doing honoring that well thank you it's a great thing about that it really is we're going to get it thank you thank you yeah get him on the way out of the stadium

01:08:08 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4088s)

how very nice [Music] my constituent now that's illiana russ leighton in miami florida long time republican member listen tonight thank you thank you sir god bless you mr president i just took him i took the advice he gave me the other day this is kind of fascinating to watch i'm not sure we've ever been able to hear it as well right thank you a little bit more percentage appears to have circled around and got another moment

01:10:13 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4213s)

officially left the chamber which means that this is the it'll be now in five minutes uh freshman democratic senator that's tom harkin the iowa senator he likes that ethanol proposal my friend how are you how are you are you great congratulations i met bruce at the white house yes i understand steve kagan yesterday he was right next to me did all right it backed off so we got about four and a half minutes i guess now until uh democratic senator freshman democratic senator jim webb of virginia a vietnam war veteran and someone the democrats were saying today on capitol hill they're very proud we'll be delivering their their response to the president's address it's expected to last about eight minutes and so we will take you to that when it begins in the meantime some thoughts from our panel here about the speech and the priority the president gave to these domestic issues are the two newest ones as we pointed out are the one on reducing gasoline consumption in this country by 20 over 10 years which is a big bite and the one about health insurance in which the president proposes to use the tax code to make insurance not only more affordable but more attractive insurance health insurance coverage to a great many people some of whom don't even have it the objection from democrats on the hill today or some of them was it doesn't seem to do anything for the people who were too poor to buy any kind of health insurance and but anyway it'd be interesting to see how far you can get with this program is this the kind of thing that can lead to legislation or is this an idea that will be uh uh mort khan drake do you think will be treated as a republican proposal uh that will benefit the private sector and

01:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4320s)

will benefit the private sector and therefore uh of less interest every democratic official that i've heard quoted or every every member of congress has uh been very negative about this idea uh pete stark who's the chairman of the house ways and means subcommittee on that does health care said that it's doa dead on arrival and yeah he said he won't even hold hearings right and uh and harry reid the senate majority leader has been critical of it and uh practically across the board it's it's been dismissed as a as a as something that helps people who have insurance um punishes some people who have insurance who have gold-plated policies exactly and um uh well that includes union members who are a major constituency of the democrats dominion members really have many union members have health insurance coverage worth more than fifteen thousand dollars i believe they do i i think uh that's the problem that uh companies like general motors and ford face that they have uh these they've agreed with their unions to provide these lavish health care plans uh that they can't they can't afford and it adds to the price of every car it makes us less let's talk a bit about the reaction on um iraq tonight um was this chillier than you anticipated or was this about what you thought would come could we did we really tell anything from this reaction to the things you said about iraq well the reaction was chilly by the democrats i suppose i thought the foreign policy part of the speech was actually pretty good i'm actually very good he gave a narrative the broader war that we're engaged in he explained that we made progress in 2005 in lebanon and iraq and afghanistan but as he said the enemy fought back in 2006 and he implicitly acknowledged that 2006 was a bad year for the broader war which i think is true and i think it's helpful to people you know these aren't just random disconnected events things go badly here there's an enemy and they fight back in different places and occasionally unfortunately they have some successes and i thought his case for what he's now

01:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4441s)

and i thought his case for what he's now proposing to do in iraq was quite strong with some nice formulations about how even if this wasn't the war we started to go into we are now in a certain war and we didn't we can't afford to lose it so i actually was more impressed by the foreign policy part of the speech houston some

thoughts from you here well i thought on iraq um i think he's too often tried to tie iraq into the war on terror people have heard this over and over again and i'm not sure the extent to which he made headway just getting people to listen to him i do think he did what he has needed to do which is draw the consequences of failure he laid that out very crisply and cleanly and i also thought this line we you did not vote for failure and i ask you to give it a chance um it was just it was a shot across the the bow of the democrats and um and i thought he's he said he spoke well on that all right nina fred i'm going to come to you the first out of we only got a few seconds here before senator webb so you'll be first to comment on after that senator webb as we've noted is a rookie senate senator democratic senator from virginia and here he is good evening i'm senator jim webb from virginia where this year we will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the settlement of jamestown an event that marked the first step in the long journey that has made us the greatest and most prosperous nation on earth it wouldn't be possible in this short amount of time to actually rebut the president's message nor would it be useful let me simply say that we in the democratic party hope that this administration is serious about improving education and health care for all americans and addressing such domestic priorities as restoring the vitality of the great city of new orleans further this is the seventh time the president has mentioned energy independence in a state of the union message but for the first time this exchange is taking place in a congress led by the democratic party we are looking for affirmative solutions that will strengthen our nation by freeing us from our dependence on

01:16:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4561s)

by freeing us from our dependence on foreign oil and spurring a wave of entrepreneurial growth in the form of alternate energy programs we look forward to working with the president and his party to bring about these changes there are two areas where our respective parties have largely stood in contradiction and i want to take a few minutes to address them tonight the first relates to how we see the health of our economy how we measure it and how we ensure that its benefits are properly shared among all americans the second regards our foreign policy how we might bring the war in iraq to a proper conclusion that will also allow us to continue to fight the war against international terrorism and to address other strategic concerns that our country faces around the world when one looks at the health of our economy it's almost as if we're living in two different countries some say that things have never been better the stock market is at an all-time high and so are corporate profits but these benefits are not being fairly shared when i graduated from college the average corporate ceo made 20 times what the average worker did today it's nearly 400 times in other words it takes the average worker more than a year to make the money that his or her boss makes in one day wages and salaries for our workers are at all time lows as a percentage of national wealth even though the productivity of american workers is the highest in the world medical costs have skyrocketed college tuition rates are off the charts our manufacturing base is being dismantled and sent overseas good american jobs are being sent along with them in short the middle class of this country our historic backbone and our best hope for a strong society in the future is losing its place at the table our workers know this through painful experience our white collar professionals are beginning to understand it as their jobs start disappearing also and they expect rightly that in this age of globalization their government has a

01:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4681s)

of globalization their government has a duty to insist that their concerns be dealt with fairly in the international marketplace in the early days of our republic president andrew jackson established an important principle of american-style democracy that we should measure the health of our society not at its apex but at its base not with the numbers that come out of wall street but with the living conditions that exist on main street we must recapture that spirit today under the leadership of the new democratic congress we're on our way to doing so the house just passed the minimum wage increase the first in 10 years and the senate will soon follow we've introduced a broad legislative package designed to regain the trust of the american people we've established a tone of cooperation and consensus that extends beyond party lines we're working to get the right things done for the right people and for the right reasons with respect to foreign policy this country has patiently endured a mismanaged war for nearly four years many including myself warned even before the war began that it was unnecessary that it would take our energy and attention away from the larger war

against terrorism and that invading and occupying iraq would leave us strategically vulnerable in the most violent and turbulent corner of the world i want to share with all of you a picture that i have carried with me for more than 50 years this is my father when he was a young air force captain flying cargo planes during the berlin airlift he sent us the picture from germany as we waited for him back here at home when i was a small boy i used to take the picture to bed with me every night because for more than three years my father was deployed unable to live with us full time serving overseas or in bases where there was no family housing i still keep it to remind me of the sacrifices that my mother and others had to make over and over again as my father

01:20:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4803s)

to make over and over again as my father gladly served our country i was proud to follow in his footsteps serving as a marine in vietnam my brother did as well serving as a marine helicopter pilot my son has joined the tradition now serving as an infantry marine in iraq like so many other americans today and throughout our history we served and have served not for political reasons but because we love our country on the political issues those matters of war and peace and in some cases life and death we trusted the judgment of our national leaders we hoped that they would be right that they would measure with accuracy the value of our lives against the enormity of the national interest that might call upon us to go into harm's way we owe them our loyalty as americans and we gave it but they owed us sound judgment clear thinking concern for our welfare a guarantee that the threat to our country was equal to the price we might be called upon to pay in defending it the president took us into this war recklessly he disregarded warnings from the national security advisor during the first gulf war the chief of staff of the army two former commanding generals of central command whose jurisdiction includes iraq the director of operations on the joint chiefs of staff and many many others with great integrity and long experience in national security affairs we are now as a nation held hostage to the predictable and predicted disarray that has followed the worst costs to our nation have been staggering financially the damage to our reputation around the world the lost opportunities to defeat the forces of international terrorism and especially the precious blood of our citizens who stepped forward to serve the majority of the nation no longer supports this war the way this war is being fought nor does the majority of our military nor does the majority of

01:22:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=4921s)

our military nor does the majority of congress we need a new direction not one step back from the war against international terrorism not a precipitous withdrawal that ignores the possibility of further chaos but an immediate shift towards strong regionally based diplomacy a policy that takes our soldiers off the streets of iraq cities and a formula that will in short order allow our combat forces to leave iraq on both of these vital issues our economy and our national security it falls upon those of us in elected office to take action regarding the economic imbalance in our country i'm reminded of the situation president theodore roosevelt faced in the early days of the 20th century america was then as now drifting apart along class lines the so-called robber barons were unappealing unapologetically raking in a huge percentage of the national wealth the dispossessed workers at the bottom were threatening revolt roosevelt spoke strongly against these divisions he told his fellow republicans that they must set themselves quote as resolutely against improper corporate influence on the one hand as against demagogy and mob rule on the other and he did something about it as i look at iraq i recall the words of former general and soon to be president dwight eisenhower during the dark days of the korean war which had fallen to a bloody stalemate when comes the end asked the general who had commanded our forces in europe during world war ii and as soon as he became president he brought the korean war to an end these presidents took the right kind of action for the benefit of the american people and for the health of our relations around the world tonight we're calling on this president to take similar action in both areas if he does we will join him if he does not we will be showing him the

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5040s)

we will be showing him the way thank you for listening and god bless america jim webb himself a writer of some repute and a man with a rich and deep voice seeming quite comfortable with the text that he had written senator reed the majority leader in the senate said today that the leadership had prepared a speech for him to give and he rewrote it completely and it was much better now that he had rewritten it and uh and it was as different kind of responses go or minority responses go opposition responses go i think it's fair to say that uh that uh this presentation by senator webb you always face terrible disadvantages fred barnes you got you're all alone in a room you have no audience to speak to you got this inanimate object there that unless you're in my business you don't get to talk to very much a camera and it seemed to me that he delivered that with considerable polish he did he did very well and usually uh these uh responses that the out party gives uh are not very good uh not many people watch them they turn off after the president uh and they then they should have watched this when it did uh capture the two things that were his campaign his winning campaign in virginia were about one was economic populism and the other was iraq and he was strong on those two points you can see the difference between what he was saying and what the president was saying he called i mean the president called for victory in in iraq and he called for a proper conclusion hard to know exactly what that means and then did what he said he said a couple things that i thought were contradictory he said he's not calling for a precipitous withdrawal and then he said our troops should be leaving in short order uh those uh did those sound like uh uh pretty much the same thing uh look i'm i'm sure this speech that he wrote was was better than the one that a committee of democratic speech writers had given to him and he and he was smart to do it i'm not sure it's a message on iraq that the nation agrees and i wondered about one part where he said nor does the majority of our military support the war in iraq now i don't he

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5160s)

support the war in iraq now i don't he offered no evidence for that it doesn't track with everything i know and it was a statement that i think he ought to be asked to justify good idea we've now heard a democratic reaction to the president's comments let's get a republican reaction from none other down in the state of florida tonight the former mayor of new york city and a current republican presidential hopeful rudy giuliani good evening mr mayor welcome good evening how you doing i'm doing well thanks your thoughts about this speech and this night well i thought the speech was a a very good one and i thought it did what the president had to do which is to get us kind of beyond iraq meaning there are a lot of other things we have to concentrate on there are a lot of things that are very important to us including iraq and the president spoke mostly about those things i think he made seven or eight points on domestic policy most important one being the health care program which is in my way of thinking uh innovative a very very good way to increase the number of people covered by health insurance particularly poor people and people that can't afford it and uh doing in a way that kind of preserves the private nature of our system and not the kind of rush towards socialist medicine that uh you could have if there was a vacuum and i thought on on iraq he put it in the context of the overall war on terror which after all is going to go on no matter what happens in iraq if god willing we're successful or if the worst happens and we're not the war on terror is going to continue to go on because they're at war with us you generally support the uh increase in the troops and the new approach being taken which obviously depends a lot on on the iraqis themselves um your thoughts about that and and and how strongly do you hope it can succeed well i hope very strongly it can succeed i root for it i want it to succeed uh i think it's in our interest that it succeed if uh i can't guarantee that it will and i i see all the problems that have existed in the last couple years so you have a you have you have some doubt about it but i it make the the strategy

01:28:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5282s)

about it but i it make the the strategy makes sense to me it makes sense to me that it's an improvement over what we were doing before which is rather than just pacifying uh pacifying and then holding territories and and making sure that they remain that way and giving the iraqi government the best chance to create stability and um i mean i in listening to senator webb's response it seems to me that the answer to it on the other side however however you describe it is precipitous withdrawal when he talks about precipitous withdrawal and removing the troops in short order it kind of comes out to the same thing to me and i think that would be a

real disaster for us so i think we have to give this a chance and i also think when the president of the united states stands before the united states congress as the commander-in-chief and really asked them you know please give me and the military and and uh general petraeus who who believes in this in this approach give us a chance to succeed i i think as americans we we have to give him that chance i can't um fail to ask you a question about presidential politics we we have been covering this stuff from washington all these years of have never seen such an accelerated schedule we've never seen the year before presidential campaign when it felt almost like the the year of the campaign itself uh you've been out there um and uh the polls show you doing very well indeed um there's sort of there some people who say well you know when it turns south and how will how well will the mayor of new york with his views on abortion and and and uh and and a range of other issues how will he do how are you finding it out there mr mayor well i'm finding it very very very supportive but largely i guess i uh people that come up to you are the people that support you and the people that are encouraging you to run so i i you know i take that sort of in a with a certain perspective i agree with you this is happening real fast i'm i'm afraid the 2012 election may start before this one is over i mean these things are really um happening very quickly you just have to adjust to it

01:30:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5401s)

quickly you just have to adjust to it and deal with it and i'll make a decision you know as quickly as i can about whether it's the right thing to do but we're we're exploring it we're putting together people we're getting a great deal of support and um as you as you look looks like something as you look across to the other party how how does it appear does it appear to you as it does to many people that uh that hillary clinton is not only the favorite but the sort of overwhelming odds-on favorite to win this or do you see it another way no it's pretty clear that she i mean she has she has the kind of lead in the on the democratic side that um that really no one on the republican side has i mean we're we're sort of pretty close together particularly uh john mccain and i uh and but she has a lead she has the kind of lead i think that um you know governor bush had if you take this back to 1999 and 2000 just on the democratic side doesn't mean that she's the inevitable candidate who knows uh there are a couple of others right there that that uh that also seem to have seemed to have some traction and who knows what's going to happen i mean being a front runner for too long in this business is very very very tough so we'll have to we'll have to see i mean you don't know you know you like being the front runner because it's nice to be a little bit ahead then you say to yourself gee i wonder if i shouldn't be a little bit further back in the pack and this is a very very very interesting very interesting process well we'll be following closely mr marin it's nice to see you sir and thanks for joining us yeah good just good to see you too brad all right all the best uh let's check in with our correspondents who have been uh covering the story tonight see if we can see them first of all i know brett bears down at the white house brett there you are brad bears at the white house major on the hill carl cameron let's start with you brat some thoughts uh uh on this speech and what you might have expected and what you saw sure we expected brit this uh list of domestic proposals these initiatives uh the white house saying that the president's going to get a jump on it tomorrow heading to delaware to go more into this energy proposal and and list this next week he'll give a speech on the state of the economy so that wasn't

01:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5520s)

the state of the economy so that wasn't expected and we got a preview of that i was struck by uh the sober delivery of the foreign policy section as bill crystal mentioned and some of the detail that the president went into specifically about security in baghdad and defending his plan to add troops there that is the key senior administration officials say baghdad is the key to this strategy really the key to security and that one section where the president said if american forces step back before baghdad is secure he painted the picture of shia extremist and sunni extremists essentially creating a cauldron in baghdad and a place where the u.s would be less secure it's a speech he's given many times but i was struck by the detail and and really the delivery in that particular section of the speech all right brett thank you let's turn to carl cameron now carl we've had a we've had uh tonight we could see as i said earlier you swing a cat on the cat on capitol hill today you're going to hit a presidential candidate we saw a lot of them tonight uh filing in we just heard from rudy giuliani your thoughts about the uh how that whole race stands on both sides quickly well i think you can

actually take a cue from how the house gallery photographers picked out the various different faces in the audience there was a whole litany of presidential candidates members of congress the house and senate nine all told milling about before and after the speech all looking to get a little bit of an opportunity to to weigh in on all of this a surprising shortage of reactions from a lot of these presidential candidates in the early stages after the speech normally were peppered with these news releases uh john kerry put out one that said the congress must stand up to bush's plan to escalate the war with a new surge of troops and i'll be introducing legislation shortly to demand the administration set a date for withdrawing troops from iraq barack obama kind of put a little bit of a tweak to hillary clinton when he said in his statement most americans believe that escalation will not bring the war in iraq to a responsible end and that's why i've proposed not just a troop cap but a phased redeployment that will start bringing our troops home hillary clinton last week when the president made his remarks about his new plan in iraq said that she supported a cap and

01:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5640s)

iraq said that she supported a cap and she supported having troops with the combat troops taken out of baghdad but would hold off on the phase redeployment so you already see the jockeying opposition on the democratic side so too is the case on the republican side and it will affect the legislative calendar and the president's agenda in that these candidates are jockeying for position and as they do so and take policy positions and their egos get in the way it could slow things down and shake the content of the debate and they are often at odds even with their own leadership in both parties the democratic presidential candidates not necessarily going to fall into lockstep with harry reid in the in the senate and not necessarily going to fall into lockstep with nancy pelosi in the house specifically because they're trying to outflank one another and the leadership agenda doesn't necessarily match their campaign imperatives brett all right carl very interesting we'll uh we'll be we'll be watching this of course with enormous uh enormous care thank you very much you might have seen at the bottom of the screen there as carl and i were talking uh a text message poll that we're running tonight the results will be discussed on hannity and combs which is coming up right after this particular broadcast and you see the address and if you want to file your thoughts uh you only have three options but let us hear from you in the meantime let me turn to my colleague major garrett who is uh the man who covers congress for us and is up there tonight major uh what do you got who you got brent welcome to statuary hall the ornate place where members of congress come after the president's state of the union speech it's just off the house floor we're going to have bipartisan reaction to the president's day of the union address first i want to let you see senator mitch mcconnell the republican leader in the senate standing appropriately in front of the statue of henry clay a famous kentuckian who also served in congress turner mcconnell i want to ask you first of all not your reaction to speed but i want to cut straight to iraq in a release after the speech nancy pelosi and harry reid said the president's plan will receive an up or down vote in both the house and the senate do republicans have votes sufficient in the senate right now to put a resolution on the floor in support of the president's proposal that can get

01:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5760s)

of the president's proposal that can get 50 votes even a slim majority well i think it's unclear we'll go to the debate uh sometime next week there'll probably be several different alternatives each of them as all measures are in the senate will be subject to 60 votes not just 50 and frankly major i couldn't tell you as of this moment exactly the outcome but there'll be several different options some of which will be pleasing to the administration does the fact that you cannot predict tonight 50 votes for any resolution that supports the president plan indicative of the political peril that plan faces in the senate i think iraq is certainly very very controversial it was the single biggest issue that flipped the congress from republican to the democrats so it shouldn't be surprising that this is a very very controversial thing it will produce a spirited debate and an interesting outcome which is not predictable at this point in your conversations with republicans who will face the voters in 2008 how nervous are they about this issue how much is it driving their own approach and appreciation or lack thereof the president's plan well i think most republicans like most americans would like a victory a victory being defined as a secure baghdad and a an ally in the war on terror and a begin

beginning of a drawdown of american troops look what's what's at stake here now is our cooperation the iraqis have to step up to the plate do what they said they would do in order to get this commitment from the president we've got our very best general general petraeus in charge of it if it can't be done under general petraeus then it cannot be done at all i had a long interview with john boehner your counterpart house republican leader he said to me all these resolutions even the ones supported by republicans will embolden enemies in the region those resolutions opposing the president's plan they will embolden terrorists in every part of the world and make americans less safe do you agree with that characterization of resolutions that oppose the president well certainly the debate itself is encouraging to the uh to our adversaries there's no question about that on the other hand this is a free country this is a democratic country

01:38:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=5881s)

is a democratic country the war is unpopular at this point and it's not surprising that we're having this debate nevertheless it is going to be uh encouraging to our opponents there's no question about that senator mcconnell thank you very much britt i want to toss it back to you and let you know that steny hoyer the house majority leader we joining us here in a moment for democratic reaction to the president's day of the union address brit back to you hey major thanks very much and thanks to senator mcconnell as well thanks to my colleagues there uh your colleagues and mine uh brett and carl and we got to take a brief break here we'll have more with everybody on the other side of that stay tuned [Music] we're not the first to come here with a government divided and uncertainty in the air like many before us we can work through our differences and we can achieve big things for the american people our citizens don't much care which side of the aisle we sit on [Music] as long as we're willing to cross that aisle when there's work to be done ah bipartisanship american the american people love it our system isn't really designed for it but we sometimes do have some of it we have morbid than most other democratic countries and everybody always appeals to it and when appeals are made bipartisanship people applaud politicians applaud whether they have any intention of being bipartisan only time will tell i suppose as the old cliche goes but let's get some further thoughts here from our panel about uh this night in this speech um nina your thoughts about the essential political predicament here what matters now well it's interesting because fred way back when we started the panel said that it the speech matters less than the democrats and how they're going to respond to it let's just take two pieces of the speech the health care proposal which is not only dead on arrival on the hill it's been described by democrats as a raising taxes on the middle class that's going

01:40:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=6000s)

taxes on the middle class that's going to be a hard thing for the president to get past and and republican strategists are very much relying on support from governors from the states if they think this governor gets something out of this they'll like they like this and that they're doing stuff on their own and they might get some traction then let's look at iraq which we knew was you know problematic going into it and then you have senator webb declaring war over the war uh accusing the president of taking us to war recklessly and then this last line where he says um you know if he does move in the direction we hope he will up we'll join him if he does not we'll be showing him the way i mean that was those are those i guess he could have suppose he could have said he would show him the door but again ah well the the uh nina portrays this is a pretty terrible night for the president do you agree with that uh it was not it was clearly not one of his great nights you know his popularity is way down in the in the 30s or low low 30 some in some cases 28 percent uh the democrats think that they that they've got a mandate from the people to uh to resist him on on iraq and uh and to put their own agenda their new direction uh in place the the white house put out a um a talking points memo to republican supporters saying that the president tonight would be exuberant and determined i think the determined part was right but i didn't see much exuberance from him most of his proposals i think there is a chance for bipartisanship for working across across aisles on immigration for example and on energy but not on health care um and maybe on education as well but you know the president i thought the president's delivery was tepid until he got to his foreign policy section where he had rhetorical flourishes and clearly uh determination about the consequences of failure in iraq and and his and his appeal for time and and his statement that victory is basically the only option that will protect the american

01:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=6121s)

option that will protect the american people there i thought he um he he was convincing to me but i don't think he was convincing to them yeah no i agree with that and the reason it is pretty obvious despite spending the first half of his speech on on domestic initiatives he cares more about iraq it's bigger it's more important for the us for uh for the world so uh he does get more passionate about that i was i was struck by this you know this bipartisanship and senator webb said that democrats have established a tone of cooperation and consensus well then the president has a health care proposal and they call it dead on arrival and won't even have hearings on that i i think they're not being very bipartisan the other thing is remember the president's most important domestic initiative of his of his entire second term was social security reform as the you know the main uh the main entitlement reform well he gave it a paragraph a boilerplate in its speech and in this book that they put that the white house put out some 20 pages on the state of the union policy initiatives social security comes up the bottom paragraph on the last page what this means is no social security reform well probably probably because he wasn't going to get it right well he could get it if he just agreed to raise taxes and democrats didn't will never give him these investment accounts he'd like in the social security system so since they won't come forward with those he's not coming forward with a tax increase i'm going to be contrary i think it was a good night for the president i think the foreign policy part of the speech was very strong and i think he is going to win this debate on iraq he may lose a vote non-binary vote in the house or the senate in the next three weeks but he has the support of the leading republican presidential candidates all these republicans on the hill are nervous they're deserting him they're looking for third ways but it's very important that he has mccain and giuliani and for that matter romney and for that matter gingrich i'd say the four leading republican presidential candidates with him saying give petraeus a chance let's take a shot at victory in iraq i think that's very important and secondly jim webb's response is very revealing he cites two

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response is very revealing he cites two historical examples the berlin airlift which his father was an air force captain in do we think the pelosi reid democrats would support something like the berlin airlift risky provocative unilateral action to help berlin which was stuck there in the middle of the soviet zone in germany and then secondly eisenhower that he closed that speech with that quote from eisenhower uh eisenhower said when comes the end about korea i googled that just before we came on here eisner said that october 25th 1952 uh the end of the 52 campaign promising to bring the war in korea to an early and honorable end an honorable end does jim webb think the democrats want to bring iraq to an honorable end they don't even say that actually they just want us to get out of there and i think the president i actually watching the president watching jim the fundamental strategic objective had been achieved despite mistakes in the war despite fights between the president and his top general macarthur nonetheless they had secured south korea that would be nice if they could have liberated north korea as well but they did secure south korea watching the president and watching webb i really thought you know what the president can win this fight no i do think that the question has to be asking at this point this these democrats now have control of both houses of congress and by their own words they have said that it is not enough simply to object to protest and resist that they have to come up with something on their own when you ask them as you heard major do steny hoyer tonight what their plan is they talk in vague generalities about how they approved of the iraq study group they talk about diplomatic initiatives being needed all of that is encompassed in what the president has obviously been trying to do but they do not really advance a plan right now the the i must say i was over there talking to the top leaders today and i asked the question they said it was it was said by um speaker pelosi pointed out correctly that the president had said at one point that this is a maliki plan and he was merely sort of adopting it but then in fact maliki had proposed a plan under which there'd be no american troops in baghdad and in many other places as well

01:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=6360s)

baghdad and in many other places as well and and he got overridden by the president who said you need more of our troops and i said to her do you think maliki and his military are ready for what they proposed i asked that question of each of those members they didn't really have an answer they didn't really want to answer the question i don't think how well will this form of resistance and politics where when they're in the new roles in the majority it's absolutely true i think that they haven't answered what i call the wet next question you know okay so you pull the troops back so the government conceivably collapses so you have these warring factions so you have possibly genocide you know what next what do you do they haven't answered that it it doesn't matter at this in the next several months set next several weeks and months when they have these oversight hearings and when they they move towards a constitutional clash about funding of this war this is what this president is going to get tied up in right and they don't they won't have to answer that question as they will they agree with that they'll never have to answer this question about what they would actually i didn't say never i said in the next few months okay my guess is that if this is if this proceeds along like it did in the in the case of vietnam that they will get be driven by their base to uh to begin to condition new uh funding on certain well they ever have to come forward with it i don't think they will ever cut off funding well they ever have to come forward with a plan of their own i don't think so i think everything depends on how well we've got about 30 seconds what to change everything is if uh the plan for baghdad works i think it will work i think in a matter of months i think general petraeus said today that he should we should see improvements by may that's not that far off where we see uh large parts of the city of baghdad being pacified and secured i think that will change will will change the political position uh of the president and his strategy for iraq here in washington thanks very much panel that is it for our part of this coverage coming up right now a special

01:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptKLE3DACM&t=6481s)

coverage coming up right now a special edition of

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